

Baker & McKenzie – CIS, Limited
Sadovaya Plaza, 11th Floor
7 Dolgorukovskaya Street
Moscow 127006 Russia
Tel: +7 095 787 2700
Fax: +7 095 787 2701
moscow.office@bakernet.com

57 Bolshaya Morskaya
St.Petersburg 190000 Russia
Tel: +7 812 303 9000
Tel: +7 812 325 8308
Fax: +7 812 325 6013
spb.office@bakernet.com
www.bakernet.com

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Regulation of the Government of the Russian Federation:

On the Rules for Medical Care for Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation

The Government of the Russian Federation has adopted the Rules for the Provision of Medical Care to Foreign Citizens on the Territory of the Russian Federation (enacted by the Regulation of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 546 on 1 September, 2005 “On Approval of the Rules for the Provision of Medical Care to Foreign Citizens on the Territory of the Russian Federation”).

The Rules set forth the procedures for the provision of free and paid medical care to foreign citizens. A major distinction is drawn between emergency care, which is provided free of charge, and planned care actions, which are paid medical services. Emergency care shall be provided in life threatening situations or when a person’s health condition requires urgent medical intervention (accidents, injuries, poisoning). After the patient has been stabilized, paid planned care services take over. The Rules contain an overview of the medical records that are required for planned medical care, of the billing and reporting procedure, and of the choice of law rule for the resolution of relevant disputes.

We recommend that foreign citizens with known medical conditions who come to Russia for an extended stay bring with them their basic medical records (excerpt of the case history, appropriate clinical, x-ray, laboratory tests) and have them translated into Russian language. Of course, they should also always have appropriate medical insurance.

These Rules are intended to eliminate any uncertainties or ambiguities in regard to foreign citizens' access to medical care in Russia. They should raise the comfort level for foreign citizens in Russia regarding such an essential need: in future foreigners should not hesitate to call the ambulance or rush to the nearest medical care provider in an emergency, and they do not need to pay for the primary emergency medical care they receive.

Questions regarding the above matters can be addressed to Evgeny Reyzman, Partner, or Julia Borozdna, Associate, in the Moscow Office of Baker & McKenzie at +7 (095) 787-2700, or to Maxim Kalinin, Partner in the St. Petersburg Office of Baker & McKenzie at +7 (812) 325-8308.

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